GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1139
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
PRODUCTION OF COAL
BIKASH CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the target of coal production in the country fixed in the year of 2002-03;

(b) the production of coal in open Mines and underground Mines during 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and upto December, 2002 respectively, year-wise;

(c) whether his Ministry have decided to install the washeries to reduce the ash and other foreign contents to make it competitive against the imported coal;

(d) if so, the details of washeries likely to be installed;

(e) whether his ministry are considering to restore/open the operation of closed units of coal washeries/underground mines for more production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken to reduce the ash content of indigenous coal?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a) : The target of coal production in the country for the year 2002-03 has been fixed at 335.80 million tonnes by the Ministry of Coal.

(b): The production of coal in opencast mines and underground mines during 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and upto December, 2002 respectively, year-wise is shown below:

(In million tonnes)

Year	Opencast	Underground
1999-2000	237.27	66.82
2000-01	247.62	66.06
2001-02	262.97	64.81
Upto December, 2002(Provisional)	191.29	51.42

(c): Government of India (vide Ministry of Environmentand Forest notification) has made it mandatory to use coal of ash content not exceeding 34% in all power stations located 1000 Km away from the supply sources or located in urban centres or critically polluted area/fragile ecology area. Coal washeries are required to be installed to meet this stipulation of Ministry of Environment & Forest and to make it competitive against the imported coal.

(d): Because of fund constraints, Coal India Limited is notat present contemplating setting up of any coal washery on their own. The coal washeries will, however, be set up either through Build-Own-Operate (BOO)basis or by private entrepreneurs who would approach Ministry of Coal/Coal India Limited after entering into an agreement with the linked consumers in the core sector for supply of washed coal.

CIL had taken action to set up following coal washeries under BOO scheme for supply of washed coal to Thermal Power Stations-

Kalinga, MCL	-	8.0 MTY (throughput capacity)
Ananta-Bharatpur, MCL	-	5.2 MTY (throughput capacity)
Dipka, SECL	-	6.0 MTY (throughput capacity)

Formal agreements to set up the washeries are yet to be signed as price negotiations are in progress with the consumers.

(e)&(f): Only one washery of CIL (Dugda-I) was closed. However,a part of Dugda-Iwashery (which had outdated its life and was closed on safety point of view) is at present being operated for washing non- coking coal and sinks of adjoining Dugda-II washeryon trial basis.

Underground mines in Coal India hadbeen closed mostly due to exhaustion of mineable reserve, adverse geo-mining conditions, on safety consideration and techno-economic unviability. As such, CILis not contemplating re-opening of closed underground mines at present.

The following steps are taken to reduce the ash content of indigenous coal:

(i) Adherence to the envisaged mining sequence in the mining method itself;

(ii) Adopting selective mining in banded coal seams;

(iii) Picking of over sized stones/boulders, extraneous material etc.;

(iv) Keeping Over Burden benches sufficiently advanced from the coal benches; and

(v) Washing/upgradation of coal through coal beneficiation plants, thereby reducing the ash content in beneficiated coal.